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Preliminary: U.S. Imports for Consumption of Steel Products December 2012

The U.S. Census Bureau announced today that preliminary December steel imports were **\$2.1 billion (2.1 million** metric tons) compared to the preliminary November totals of \$2.5 billion (2.4 million metric tons).

The December change in steel imports based on metric tonnage reflected decreases primarily in hot dipped sheets and strips, oil country goods, and line pipes and an increase primarily in hot rolled sheets. Decreases occurred primarily with Korea and Japan. Increases occurred primarily with Russia and Australia.

The year to date final statistics through November 2012 showed steel imports of 28.1 million metric tons compared with 24 million metric tons through November 2011. The largest commodity increases occurred primarily in blooms, billets, and slabs and oil country goods. The largest country increases occurred primarily with Korea and Brazil. Decreases occurred primarily with Australia.

Notes:

The data in this report are preliminary and subject to revisions.

Analysis of recent months for steel product imports indicates the value of preliminary data should equal about 96 percent of the final value reported in the regular monthly trade statistics report. Preliminary data reported for individual steel categories and at the individual country of origin level have been less consistently predictive of the final data reported in the regular monthly trade statistics. For further details, visit the Foreign Trade Division web site at www.census.gov/trade. On the website, you can access product by country and country by product tables.

The next release is February 10, 2013.